

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 120

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 53

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 120—Relative to California Cattlemen's Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 12, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 120, Nielsen. California Cattlemen's Day.

This measure would declare March 21, 2012, as California Cattlemen's Day and would urge all residents of this state to acknowledge and pay respect to the men and women, all over the State of California, who work on the land to enhance and protect it, and who dedicate their lives to producing healthy food for millions throughout the world.

WHEREAS, California has a long tradition of ranching dating back to the establishment of the first Spanish mission in San Diego in the early 1700s. By 1834, California's mission operated a herd of beef cattle estimated at 400,000 head. Under Mexican rule, large "ranchos" were established, and cattle hides and tallow fueled the state's economy. The Gold Rush brought hundreds of thousands of new citizens to the state, as well as a new demand for beef, and many of today's ranches were established prior to or shortly following the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill; and

WHEREAS, Today, California's cattlemen and cattlemen represent an industry as diverse as any in the world and the traditions of land stewardship have been passed down through generations. California's cattlemen and cattlemen own or manage approximately 38 million of California's 100 million acres of privately and publicly owned rangelands. California's working rangelands provide public benefits such as open space, ground water recharge, carbon sequestration, fuel load reductions and habitat for wildlife. With more than 90 percent of California rainfall flowing through rangeland on its way to other uses, the health and maintenance of these rangelands is imperative; and

WHEREAS, California is home to nearly 12,000 family farms and ranches raising livestock, many of which have been passed down for multiple generations; and

WHEREAS, California remains the nation's largest agricultural producing state and agriculture is California's top grossing industry. Beef and cattle production plays no small part in contributing to California's robust agricultural industry and contributes \$1.75 billion to the California economy; and

WHEREAS, The long-term success of all segments of the beef industry, from pasture to plate, require the careful stewardship of our state's natural

resources and the ongoing commitment to ensuring top quality health and welfare for the animals in their care. So well managed is this land, that numerous studies have found grazing to benefit habitat for multiple endangered and threatened species; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature declares March 21, 2012, as California Cattlemen's Day, and all residents of this state are urged to acknowledge and pay respect to the men and women, all over the State of California, who work on the land to enhance and protect it, and who dedicate their lives to producing healthy food for millions throughout the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.